During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Committee on Research (COR) met four times before this report was filed, and expects to meet at least two more times before the end of the academic year.

The Committee reviewed and readopted the prior year’s Conflict of Interest Statement.

COR’s primary activity was to administer intramural grant competitions. COR worked towards clarifying the award criteria for the intramural research grant programs it manages and making the on-line application process clearer, easier, and less onerous.

COR was responsible for the review of the Pac Rim grants submitted by UCR faculty, selecting the maximum permitted 8 grants for submission for systemwide review. COR re-adopted last year’s criteria and scoring mechanisms in reviewing 10 Pac Rim applications.

The committee discussed the Review of UC Observatories, a document circulated by Senate Chair Mary Gauvain that came from the systemwide Academic Senate. The committee discussed the Review and generally agreed with the Review’s sentiment that the UC Observatories generate excellent research and attract high quality faculty; however COR felt that the justification was weak in important areas. Specific areas where the committee felt important data were lacking were: the degree of OR faculty support, graduate and post-doctoral training, extramural funding, and the potential role of use charges.

COR reviewed and discussed the report of the joint Senate-Administration faculty salaries task force. In summary the committee found that, while the Taskforce made an interesting proposal to correct the current inadequacy of Faculty salaries, it is not clear that it inevitably improves the situation more effectively than a simple increment towards the Comp8 salary levels. The advantages and disadvantages of the new proposal relative to using the Comp8 still need to be clearly delimited. COR was concerned that setting salaries based primarily on hiring and retention (step 1 in the report) has potential problems, especially at the tenured ranks, and that the proposal will lead (in step 2) to the establishment of salary differences among the campuses, an outcome that represents a fundamental shift in University policy.

Research grant applications received in 2011-2012 for 2012-2013 funding included: 303 Omnibus (157 Travel Only and 146 Research and Travel), 47 COR, and 30 Regents. COR will review and score all of the Research and Travel applications, COR applications, and Regents applications.
The Riverside Division was represented on the University-wide Committee on Research Policy (UCОРП) by Robert Clare, a member of COR. COR requested, through our representative, to be informed of non-confidential UCОРП agenda items in advance so that they could be discussed by COR. This request has met with limited success.

Leonard Nunney, Chair
Robert Clare
Marsha Ing
Jeanette Kohl
Anthea Kraut
Tanya Nieri
Khaleel Razak
Dana Simmons
Albert Wang